

Message Text

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10

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07

ACDA-07 DHA-02 /069 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN:JN

APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

ARA/CEN:MBOVA

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R 192350Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 206945

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM SHLAUDEMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: FMS TRANSACTIONS WITH GON: M-16'S AND M-60'S

REF: MANAGUA 3900

1. THE MESSAGE UNDER REFERENCE SEEMS TO REFLECT A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. THE FRASER HEARINGS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH SEPTEMBER. WE BELIEVE THAT FAILURE TO DEFER FINAL APPROVAL UNTIL THOSE HEARINGS ARE COMPLETED, AND FRASER HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THE NICARAGUAN SITUATION AGAIN IF HE SO CHOOSES, WOULD BE UNNECESSARILY PROVOCATIVE AND POSSIBLY DAMAGING TO THE GON'S INTERESTS AS WELL AS OUR OWN.

2. THAT DELAY SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS A "THREAT" OR "PRESSURE," AND IS NOT SO INTENDED. IN FACT, THE
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EXAMPLE OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION SHUTTING CHILE COMPLETELY

OFF FROM ACCESS TO U.S. ARMS SHOULD V TE THE NEED
FOR ANY FURTHER EXHORTATIONS ON OUR PART. IT IS ALSO
THE CASE THAT THE GON IS FREE TO PURCHASE THESE WEAPONS
IN EUROPE IF THE NECESSARY DELAY IN OUR RESPONSE IS
UNACCEPTABLE.

3. MY OWN VIEW REMAINS THAT 10,000 M-16'S IS AN
EXCESSIVE NUMBER AND THAT WE SHOULD HOLD TO THE
ORIGINAL FIGURE. ROBINSON

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NNN

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